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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application, as currently amendment, is respectfully requested.

In response to the matters raised with regard to the outstanding objection to the drawings and Specification (i.e., the Substitute Specification), revisions of a minor, remedial nature are being effected with regard to the earlier submitted Substitute Specification. The above made changes to the Substitute Specification, it is submitted, remove any previously existing confusion/inconsistency regarding the reference numerals employed when referring to the described "first power supply line" and "second power supply line." Therefore, having obviated any such previously rendered concerns directed thereto, in view of the current changes being effected in the Substitute Specification, withdrawal of the outstanding objections to both the Specification and Drawings is respectfully requested. Regarding the objection to the Drawings, moreover, the correcting revisions effected in the Substitute Specification, it is submitted, renders moot the need for effecting further changes to the Drawings.

The objection to claims 9, 11, 20 [and 22] are noted. Accordingly, the questioned expressions in these claims were carefully reviewed and revised, accordingly. In this regard, applicants, through their undersigned representative, are effecting revisions of an editorial/clarifying nature in line with the Examiner's recommended changes (see page 4 of the detailed Action). Since these revisions are being effected, for example, to improve the readability of the claimed subject matter and are in line with the Examiner's suggestions, thereby removing any

previously outstanding objection thereto, acceptance/formal entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that dependent claims 8, 12-16, 19, 21, and 23-26 contain allowable subject matter and that these claims would be formally allowed upon being re-presented in an appropriate self-contained format (see the discussion under the heading Allowable Subject Matters beginning on page 8 of the Detailed Action). Accordingly, applicants have decided, at this time, to incorporate the content of objected dependent claim 8 into base claim 1 thereof, thereby rendering independent claim 1 allowable. (Claim 8 has therefore been canceled.) Correspondingly, all dependent claims having as a basis independent claim 7 have also been rendered allowable for the same and similar reasons therefor. Likewise, independent claim 18 has also been rendered allowable since it now contains the allowable subject matter contained in previously pending claim 19. (Claim 19 has also been accordingly canceled.) Correspondingly, all remaining dependent claims which have as a basis the now allowable independent claim 19 have, likewise, been rendered allowable.

As to the art rejections given, under 35 USC § 103(a) (see pages 4-8 of the detailed Action), they have been rendered moot in view of the above-made amendments to the claims.

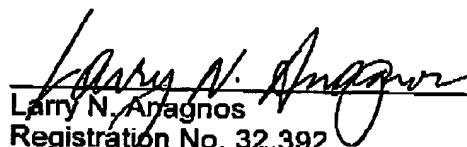
Therefore, since the above-made amendments include revisions that are generally of a minor formal nature including revisions made at the suggestion of the Examiner, and since the amendments made to both independent claims are to incorporate allowable subject matter therein, thereby rendering the independent claims as well as the corresponding dependent claims thereof allowable,

acceptance/formal entry of this Amendment in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.116 as well as favorable action on the claims and early allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.42988X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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